

Rollcall No. 440 was a vote on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 1722, the Telework Improvements Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 441 was a vote on H.R. 1722, the Telework Improvement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KEITH BLACKLEDGE

#### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a respected Nebraska journalist, Keith Blackledge, who recently passed away at the age of 82.

Keith was a reporter at the North Platte Telegraph from 1952 to 1959. After a series of other assignments, he returned to North Platte in 1967 when he was named the executive editor of the Telegraph, and later named vice-president and director of public affairs for the paper. Keith was named to the Nebraska Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2005.

He retired from the paper in 1992 but, never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Keith continued to write a weekly column for the paper until his death.

During his time in North Platte, Keith authored four books—A Short History of North Platte, The Election of 1951, Letter to Home, and This Town Fights About Everything.

As president of the North Platte Chamber of Commerce during the late 1970s, Keith initiated the creation of the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation and the Clean City Committee, which later became Keep North Platte Beautiful.

He also played a major role in the successful campaign to consolidate two small hospitals and establish the Great Plains Regional Medical Center in the early 1970s. He initiated the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in North Platte in 1998 and served as its first president.

Just two months ago, Lincoln County Commissioners proclaimed May 10th of this year Keith Blackledge Day.

Keith dedicated his life to improving North Platte and surrounding communities while always remaining a dedicated journalist.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was detained from voting on Tuesday, July 13 due to flight delays. If present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes:

Rollcall 434; rollcall 435; and rollcall 436.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following

recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Tuesday, July 13, 2010.

For Tuesday, July 13, 2010, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 434 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree H.R. 4514); "no" on rollcall vote No. 435 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. R. 4438; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 436 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4773).

#### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Representative BARBARA LEE's amendment to prevent an escalation and limit funding to the safe and orderly withdrawal of our troops and military contractors from Afghanistan. After 9 years of war, the time has come to bring our troops home.

I will also vote in favor of the McGovern-Obey amendment that would require the President to provide Congress with a plan for the expeditious redeployment of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and a timeline for completion of the redeployment.

I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leadership for bringing this bill to the floor today in a manner that allows clear up or down votes on funding for the war and other domestic priorities.

The challenges in Afghanistan are great. As the violence and attacks on our troops continue to increase, we still do not have a clear path forward or a way to measure progress there.

We cannot afford to sustain an open-ended commitment with no clear definition of success.

Reports of corruption abound in Afghanistan, and without a true partner in the Karzai government, our prospects for making real progress have grown dim.

Our troops have fought with honor and professionalism in the face of great challenges, and at great cost—I am truly humbled by their service and sacrifice. These brave men and women in uniform deserve our full support and commitment to return them home safely to their families and loved ones.

President Obama did not start this war, and I was among those who have spoken out in support of allowing for the time necessary for a new strategy in Afghanistan to turn the tide.

But after years of war that has strained our military, their families, and the country, I am unable to continue to support what increasingly looks like an intractable situation in Afghanistan.

That is why I vote in favor of these amendments today.

Despite my opposition to our continued military presence in Afghanistan, the bill does include critical domestic funding that I will support. These include saving teachers' jobs, Pell Grants, emergency food assistance for hungry Americans, and disaster aid to respond to the Gulf oil spill catastrophe.

For example, today we are providing \$10 billion for an Education Jobs Fund to provide

additional emergency support to local school districts to prevent impending layoffs. Estimates suggest that this fund will help keep 140,000 school employees on the job next year.

Moreover, when we invest in education, we save jobs in other sectors and spur economic recovery. According to the Economic Policy Institute, for every 100,000 education jobs lost, another 30,000 jobs are lost in other sectors due to reduced consumer spending and tax revenues.

The list of important programs this bill funds is both extensive and impressive: Among other priorities, we are providing \$304 million for the Gulf Coast oil spill; \$50 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program for food purchases to distribute through local emergency food providers; \$13.377 billion for the payment of benefits to Vietnam veterans and their survivors for exposure to Agent Orange, which has been linked with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, and hairy cell/B cell leukemia; and \$2.93 billion for Haiti.

These are extremely important priorities which are fully paid for and which I support.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. EMILE JOSEPH ZOGHBY

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer tribute to a remarkable South Alabama businessman, Mr. Emile Joseph Zoghby, who passed away on July 3, 2010 at the age of 91.

Described by his son, Edmund, as an "old-school Southern gentleman," Mr. Zoghby was a longtime merchant in downtown Mobile with a well known reputation for quality who contributed significantly to Mobile's economy.

A graduate of McGill-Toolen High School and Springhill College, both in Mobile, Mr. Zoghby served in the United States Army from 1941–1945. Upon completion of his service to America, he returned to Mobile to help run his family clothing business, as the eldest of five sons.

His care for customers and determination to succeed made him and his clothing store, Zoghby's, invaluable to the city of Mobile. But even more than his impeccable taste was his well loved personality. He was the consummate salesman and his customers were among his best friends.

Mr. Zoghby was also a devoted family man, showcased by his 66 year marriage, and always committed to his seven children.

Madam Speaker, Emile Zoghby lived a full, rich life complete with a wonderful family, treasured friends and a legacy of helping others that will be hard to replicate. My condolences and prayers go out to his lovely wife, Josephine, and their children, Mary Jo, Edmund, Melanie, Alex, Linda, and Diane, as well as 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. We mourn with you over your loss, just as we celebrate Mr. Zoghby's remarkable life and all those he touched. May he rest in peace.